

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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✓ 1 - 11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) A computer program product for use in conjunction with a commodity-based system for conducting financial transactions, the system including at least one deposit site having secure facilities for storage of a quantity of fungible precious metal, said computer program product embodied on computer-readable medium and comprising code that, when executed on a computer, causes the computer to perform the following steps:

identify a unique serial number associated with one of a plurality of electronic data files;

identify an amount of the fungible precious metal represented by said one of a plurality of electronic data files, wherein the total amount of fungible precious metal represented by the plurality of electronic data files is less than or equal to the quantity of fungible precious metal stored in the secure facilities;

identify a date associated with said electronic data file, said date indicating the date when said electronic data file was created;

verify a digital signature for authenticating said electronic data file.

13. (previously presented) A computer program product in accordance with claim 12 wherein said computer data are digital data.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A computer program product in accordance with claim 12 wherein said precious metal comprises gold.

16 - 23. (cancelled)

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